

Register results

The following actions have been taken by Federal agencies. They have previously been summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER as proposals. Extent of consumer and other comment is reported when such information is available.

• **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** has amended on an interim basis its former *Fuel Economy Guide* as it applies to fuel economy advertising. This guide requires using **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA)** "estimated mpg" figures whenever fuel economy claims are made. (Other estimates may also be used, but such figures must be less prominently displayed than the estimated mpg and must be accompanied with additional information.) FTC received 21 comments on the original proposal including 9 from consumer groups, 6 from domestic and foreign car makers, 2 from Federal agencies, and 4 from individual consumers. Effective date is Dec. 29. Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 29, page 55747; Aug. 4, page 34496. CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 1. For more information write or call Marilyn Holmes, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580; telephone 202-724-1964. Copies of the guide may be obtained from the Bureau of Consumer Protection at address listed above.

• **Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)** has set up a program of payments to pay the expenses of individuals and groups that represent consumer interests at CAB's proceedings. Such compensation will be given only to applicants who don't have enough money to pay their own expenses. The original proposal was based on a petition by the **Aviation Consumer Action Project** and the **Institute for Public Interest Representation**. Effective date was Nov. 28, 1978. Details—*Federal Register*: Dec 5, 1978; Feb. 11, 1977. CONSUMER REGISTER: March 1, 1977. For more information write or call Mark Schwimmer, Civil Aeronautics Board, Washington, DC 20428; telephone 202-673-5442.

Advisory committees (Help wanted)

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would like nominations for voting members to serve on 13 **Bureau of Drugs** advisory committees. Nominations will be accepted for current vacancies and those that may occur during the coming year.

FDA wants to broaden the field from which committee members may be chosen and provide a wider range of viewpoints. In addition to nominations from scientific and professional organizations, FDA is seeking nominations of well qualified individuals by consumer oriented and public interest groups.

Membership on most of these committees will require a scientific background. However, on certain ones, for example the Fertility and Maternal Health Drugs Advisory Committee, experience in consumer concerns relating to the possible effects of drugs (i.e., oral contraceptives, medicated intrauterine devices, and pain killers used in labor) on women and fetuses would be an important addition to the committee.

Nominations should be received at least 90 days before the date of each scheduled vacancy as shown below. Each committee has one vacancy unless otherwise noted.

Anesthetic and Life Support Drugs—June 30
Anti-Infective and Topical Drugs—Dec. 31
Arthritis—Sept. 30
Cardiovascular and Renal Drugs—June 30
Endocrinologic and Metabolic Drugs—June 30
Fertility and Maternal Health Drugs—June 30
Gastrointestinal Drugs—June 30
Oncologic (anti-cancer) Drugs—June 30
Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drugs—Jan. 31
Psychopharmacologic Drugs—June 30
Pulmonary-Allergy Drugs—June 30
Radiopharmaceutical Drugs—June 30
Drug Abuse—1 possible vacancy—June 30.

The Drug Abuse Advisory Committee functions differently from other committees and requires special qualifications. Those interested in this area should get in touch with the contact person listed below for more information.

Any interested person may nominate one or more qualified persons for membership on one or more of the advisory committees. Nominations must specify: the committee for

which the nominee is recommended, that the nominee is willing to serve, and appears to have no conflict of interest. FDA will ask potential candidates to provide detailed information concerning financial holdings, consultancies, and research grants or contracts in order to avoid any possible conflict.

FDA is particularly interested in assuring that women and minority groups are adequately represented and encourages nomination of female and minority candidates.

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct 24, page 49572. Send nominations to Joseph Price, Bureau of Drugs (HFD-22), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. For further information contact Mr. Price at the above address or telephone 301-443-4090.

How regulations are made

Feb. 5 is deadline for comments on **Office of the Federal Register's (OFR)** request for comments on a proposed educational program that would explain how the Federal Government makes regulations. This program would be in addition to OFR's briefing sessions on how to use the *Federal Register*—that have been held for several years in many cities across the country.

OFR is proposing the new program for people who need to know more about how government agencies make regulations—with special emphasis on opportunities for the public to participate in the process.

But before OFR begins an educational program on regulations, it wants to find out if one is actually needed and what form it should take. OFR would like to know:

- What the primary objectives of the course should be.
- What specific topics the course should include.
- At whom the course should be directed and what the format should be.
- Where the course should be conducted, what materials should be used, and what follow-up sessions on specific agency procedures should be held, if any.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 4, page 56727. Send comments to Special Projects Unit, Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC 20408. For more information write or call Martha Girard at above address; telephone 202-523-5240.

Social security records

Jan. 29 is deadline for comments on a proposal by **Social Security Administration (SSA)** to clarify its regulations on how employees and self-employed persons covered under social security can find out what SSA earnings records on them contain and how, and under what circumstances, records may be changed to correct errors. SSA is making the changes so that the regulations will be easier for the public to use, and as part of "Operation Common Sense," **Health, Education and Welfare Dept.'s (HEW)** effort to review, simplify and reduce regulations. SSA is part of HEW. There are no changes in policy or procedure.

The regulations explain that to obtain earnings information in SSA records, covered individuals, their survivors in the event of death, or their legal representatives must submit a written request at any social security office. The request must be signed and contain the person's full name, address, social security number and date of birth.

If an earnings statement received from SSA is believed to be in error, a request for correction must be filed with SSA, usually within 3 years, 3 months and 15 days after any year in which earnings were received. After the time limit expires, SSA may make changes or corrections depending on evidence showing that the records are incorrect.

A request for a correction must be made in writing. It must be signed and state the period believed to be incorrect.

After SSA receives requests for corrections, it will either grant or deny the request. If denied, the decision may be appealed.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 28, 1978, page 55414. Send comments to Social Security Administration, PO Box 1585, Baltimore, MD 21203. For more information write or call James MacDonald, Room 4234, West High Rise Building, 6401 Social Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235; telephone 301-594-7336.

Milk, cream and cheese substitutes

March 19 is new deadline for comments on **Food and Drug Administration's (FDA)** proposal to establish identity standards for milk, cream and cheese substitutes. Members of the dairy industry asked for a longer comment period.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 19, 1978, page 59093; Sept. 19, 1978, page 42118. **CONSUMER REGISTER**: Nov. 15, 1978. Send comments to Hearing Clerk (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. For more information call Eugene McGarrahan at 202-245-1155.

Age discrimination

Feb. 28 is deadline for written comments on **Health, Education, and Welfare Dept.'s (HEW)** proposed general regulations to carry out the provisions of the amended Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

The Act applies to persons of all ages and to all programs and activities receiving Federal funds, including the so-called Revenue Sharing Act. Not covered, however, are programs or activities "established under authority of any law" which provide benefits on the basis of age or in age-related terms. Nor does it generally cover employment practices or labor-management joint apprenticeship training programs.

While the Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal funds, it permits some distinctions based on age. For example, denying reimbursement for dental services to persons over a certain age or restricting access to training opportunities solely because of age may constitute age discrimination. On the other hand, age-based compulsory school attendance laws or requirements that children under age 6 be accompanied by adults when entering a museum may be considered permissible age distinctions, reflecting efforts to meet the needs of particular age groups.

Because age distinctions in Federally assisted programs are numerous and reflect many policy considerations, it is difficult to set up general regulations. HEW is concerned about finding a reasonable interpretation of the law which would effectively prevent age discrimination, while still preserving some flexibility for state and local governments.

A series of public hearings will be held to discuss how this law should be interpreted. Listed below are dates, times, places, and contact persons for each hearing:

Jan. 16-17; 9:30-5:30
HEW Auditorium
330 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC
Contact: Ms. Bayla White 202-245-6284

Jan. 22; 9-9
Atlanta City Council Chambers
68 Mitchell St., NW
Atlanta, GA
Contact: Mr. A. B. Albritton 404-221-2311

Jan 23; 9-7
17th Floor Conference Room
300 South Wacker Dr.
Chicago, IL
Contact: Ms. Marian Miller 312-353-3141

Jan. 24; 9-7
State Auditorium
107 South Broadway
Los Angeles, CA
Contact: Ms. Sharon Fujii 415-556-2650

Jan. 26; 9-7
Allegheny County Court House
Grant and Forbes St.
Pittsburgh, PA
Contact: Mr. Paul Cushing 215-596-6492

If you wish to speak at a hearing, telephone the contact person for information on how to file your request.

HEW is only proposing *general* regulations. After the Secretary issues final *general* regulations, each Federal agency which provides Federal funds must publish proposed and final *specific* regulations. Therefore, the *general* regulations are designed to guide the development of *specific* regulations by each appropriate agency.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 1, page 56428. Send comments to Ms. Bayla White, Director, Age Discrimination Task Force, Room 716-E, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20201. For further information contact Ms. White at the above address; telephone 202-245-6284.

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consumer comment

Federal agencies want to learn your views on proposals and other items published in the *Federal Register* and CONSUMER REGISTER. Agencies use these comments in their decision making.

These forms are provided for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on these items. For more lengthy comments, feel free to use a plain sheet of paper. Send comment forms to addresses listed in CONSUMER REGISTER summaries. CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) _____

by (name of agency) _____

published in *Federal Register* on (date) _____ on (page) _____

(over)

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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CONSUMER REGISTER publishes proposed and final rules, regulations and notices of interest to consumers originally appearing in the *Federal Register*. Notices on proposed rules published in the *Federal Register* and summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER give consumers the opportunity to participate in rule making prior to the adoption of final rules. The *Federal Register* is published to provide a uniform system for making available to the public regulations and legal notices issued by Federal agencies.

